

Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine Vows to "Move Brookhaven Forward" During Inaugural Address

posted on 11/26/2012 6:17:31 PM

October 1, 2012



Newly sworn-in Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine delivers his inaugural address to a standing room only crowd at Town Hall.



Supervisor Edward P. Romaine (right) is sworn-in by Judge James Hudson, Supervising Judge of the Suffolk County Court and Acting Supreme Court Justice, while his wife Diane holds the bible

Farmingville, NY - On Monday, November 26, Edward P. Romaine was sworn in as the 70th Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven during the Inaugural ceremony at Town Hall. He was elected Supervisor in a special election held on November 6, 2012. The standing room only event was attended by hundreds of people, including elected officials and dignitaries representing all levels of government, civic leaders, guests, friends, family and residents from throughout Brookhaven Town. The new Supervisor was introduced by Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale and the Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable Judge James Hudson, Supervising Judge of the Suffolk County Court and Acting Supreme Court Justice. Upon taking the Oath of Office, Supervisor Romaine received a standing ovation from those in attendance. He opened his inaugural address, "Moving Brookhaven Forward," by calling today "a day that marks a new beginning" for Brookhaven Town.

Click here to read Supervisor Romaine's speech.

Supervisor Romaine announced that his first priority will be to help residents and businesses rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, asking that the Town's Building Department "encourage and foster" reconstruction by expediting permits for storm related damage and providing the staff to help residents navigate through the process. He also announced the "appointment of a task force to better prepare for the next storm by examining what went right and what went wrong with LIPA, the Town's response, FRES, FEMA, the county, and the state." In addition, he indicated a need to improve the electric grid system, bury utility lines and ensure that cell towers are continuously energized to maintain vital communications during extreme weather conditions. He also thanked Town workers whose efforts during and after Hurricane Sandy have helped residents during recovery.

Addressing what Supervisor Romaine called "a looming budget crisis," he announced the recent empanelling of a task force of experts in municipal finance and government operations who reviewed town finances and delivered what he called "a grim report." To avoid the "fiscal cliff," the Supervisor said he will end deficit spending and rebuild the surplus by expanding the Town's tax base, not the tax rate. He also said that he will institute accountability and zero based budgeting and ask Town employees for ideas and solutions to cut costs, provide better services, increase productivity and eliminate waste. The Supervisor also said he would make Brookhaven a model for open government and transparency so residents know how their tax dollars are spent.

Supervisor Romaine declared that the Town's website will be updated to include adopted budgets, the town debt, tax rates, fund balances and special district accounts and announced the creation of an "Open Government Portal" with timely posting of resolutions and information about public hearings and recommended greater use of information technology to bring government closer to the people. He also will reinstate a recently disbanded task force that was

established to create a close working relationship with the Brookhaven Business Advisory Council and encourage the Industrial Development Agency to develop new ways to attract new industries and good paying jobs to Brookhaven Town.

As County Legislator, Supervisor Romaine was a leading advocate for the environment and he vowed to continue his efforts to protect open space and farmland, and ensure safe and clean drinking and surface waters. He also said that the Town must find a way to preserve the Carmans River Watershed and reduce the Town's energy consumption through alternate sources such as wind, solar and geothermal energy. He addressed waste management by vowing to start planning for the future of the Town Landfill by reactivating the Landfill Advisory Committee, developing an "alternate waste management future" and "running a landfill that has less of an impact on its neighbors."

Finally, Supervisor Romaine thanked the voters for electing him and closed the address with a quote from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." He then asked residents to join him and work together to "move Brookhaven forward."

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258